

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Appln. Of: Kimikazu MATSUMOTO

For: IN-PLANE SWITCHING MODE ACTIVE MATRIX LIQUID . . .

DOCKET: NEC N1128

The Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir: . . .

Applicant respectfully requests that the following amendments be made to the above-identified application prior to examination.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the second numbered claim 15 to read as follows:

16. (Amended) The process as set forth in claim 15, in which said step a) includes the sub-steps of
- a-1) patterning a first material layer into said black matrix,
 - a-2) patterning a second material layer into said color filter layers in such a manner that said black matrix is spaced from said color filter layers, and
 - a-3) covering said black matrix and said color filter layers with an overcoat layer so that a part of said overcoat layer penetrates into the gap between said black matrix and said color filter layers for serving as said piece of material.

Please renumber claims 16-18 as claims 17-19 as follows:

17. (Amended) The process as set forth in claim 15, in which said step a) further includes the sub-step of a-4) forming moats in said part of said overcoat layer.

18. (Amended) The process as set forth in claim 15, in which said step a) includes the sub-steps of

a-1) patterning a first material layer into said black matrix,

a-2) patterning a second material layer into said color filter layers in such a manner that said black matrix is spaced from said color filter layers,

a-3) patterning a third material layer into said piece of material filling the gap between said black matrix and said color filter layers, and

a-4) coating said black matrix, said color filter layers and said piece of material with an overcoat layer.

19. (Amended) The process as set forth in claim 15, in which said step a) includes the sub-steps of

a-1) patterning a first material layer into said black matrix having openings,

a-2) forming said piece of material in such a manner as to partially on peripheral regions of said black matrix and partially in peripheral zones of said openings,

a-3) forming a second material layer into said color filter layers in such a manner as to have peripheral portions on the portions of said piece of material in said peripheral zones, and

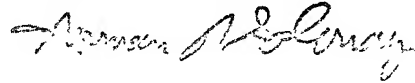
a-4) covering said black matrix, said color filter layers and said piece of material with an overcoat layer.

REMARKS

The claims have been amended to correct an obvious numbering error and to correct two obvious spelling errors in new claims 18 and 19. No new matter is believed entered by any of the foregoing amendments.

The filing fees have been calculated based on the claims as amended. In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account No. 08-1391.

Respectfully submitted,



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Signature of Person Mailing



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MARKED VERSION OF CLAIMS SHOWING CHANGES MADE:

[15] 16. (Amended) The process as set forth in claim [14] 15, in which said step a) includes the sub-steps of

a-1) patterning a first material layer into said black matrix,

a-2) patterning a second material layer into said color filter layers in such a manner that said black matrix is spaced from said color filter layers, and

a-3) covering said black matrix and said color filter layers with an overcoat layer so that a part of said overcoat layer penetrates into the gap between said black matrix and said color filter layers for serving as said piece of material.

[16] 17. (Amended) The process as set forth in claim 15, in which said step a) further includes the sub-step of a-4) forming moats in said part of said overcoat layer.

[17] 18. (Amended) The process as set forth in claim 15, in which said step a) includes the sub-steps of

a-1) patterning a first material layer into said black matrix,

a-2) patterning a second material layer into said color filter layers in such a manner that said black matrix is spaced from said color filter layers,

a-3) [patterning] patterning a third material layer into said piece of material filling the gap between said black matrix and said color filter layers, and

a-4) coating said black matrix, said color filter layers and said piece of material with an overcoat layer.

[18] 19. (Amended) The process as set forth in claim 15, in which said step a) includes

the sub-steps of

a-1) [patterning] patterning a first material layer into said black matrix having openings,

a-2) forming said piece of material in such a manner as to partially onperipheral regions of said black matrix and partially in peripheral zones of said openings,

a-3) forming a second material layer into said color filter layers in such a manner as to have peripheral portions on the portions of said piece of material in said peripheral zones, and

a-4) covering said black matrix, said color filter layers and said piece of material with an overcoat layer.